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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/935,298	
	Filing Date	8/22/2001
	First Named Inventor	Christopher R. Spejna
	Art Unit	3651
	Examiner Name	Joseph A. Dillon, Jr.
Attorney Docket Number	550134-086	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	15	

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Thompson Hine LLP 2000 Courthouse Plaza N.E., 10 West Second Street Dayton, Ohio 45402-1758
Signature	
Date	3/22/2004

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PTO/SB/17 (08-03)

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2003

Effective 01/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 165.00

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/935,298
Filing Date	8/22/2001
First Named Inventor	Christopher R. Spejna
Examiner Name	Joseph A. Dillon, Jr.
Art Unit	3651
Attorney Docket No.	550134-086

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None☒ Deposit Account:Deposit Account Number: 20-0809
Deposit Account Name: Thompson Hine LLP

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments☐ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1001	750	2001	375	Utility filing fee	
1002	330	2002	165	Design filing fee	
1003	520	2003	260	Plant filing fee	
1004	750	2004	375	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	
SUBTOTAL (1)					(\$) 0

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

		Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims		-20** =	X	
Independent Claims		-3** =	X	
Multiple Dependent				

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	84	2201	42	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	280	2203	140	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	84	2204	42	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent
SUBTOTAL (2)				(\$) 0

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	410	2252	205	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	930	2253	465	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,450	2254	725	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	1,970	2255	985	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	320	2401	160	Notice of Appeal	
1402	320	2402	160	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	165
1403	280	2403	140	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,300	2453	650	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,300	2501	650	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	470	2502	235	Design issue fee	
1503	630	2503	315	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	750	2809	375	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810	750	2810	375	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801	750	2801	375	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 165.00

SUBMITTED BY

(Complete if applicable)

Name (Print/Type)	Michael J. Nieberding	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	39,316	Telephone	937-443-6892
Signature		Date	3/22/2004		

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Customer No. 27805

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicant : Spejna et al.
Serial No. : 09/935,298
Filed : August 22, 2001
Title : STATOR WINDING SYSTEM AND METHOD WITH PALLET ON
PALLET ARRANGEMENT
Docket : 550134-086
Examiner : Dillon Jr., Joseph A.
Art Unit : 3651

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

APPEAL BRIEF

This is an appeal from the Final Rejection mailed on October 22, 2003. A Notice of Appeal was submitted on January 21, 2004.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

This application is assigned to Odawara Automation, Inc. as evidenced by the Assignment document recorded at Reel/Frame 012392/0564. Accordingly, Odawara Automation, Inc. is the real party in interest.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

The inventors, assignee and undersigned attorney are not aware of any appeals or interferences that would be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

03/25/2004 CHNGUYEN 00000010 09935298

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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 and 45-62 are pending in the application, claims 15-44 have been canceled.

Claims 7, 9, 11-14, 45, 47, 49-59 and 61-62 are being appealed.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A Response To Final Office Action was filed on January 21, 2004, but did not contain any claim amendments.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The invention is for an automated stator winding method using a transport pallet with a winding pallet thereon and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet. Referring to the illustrated embodiment of Figs. 2A and 2B and the description at page 4, lines 8-21, a transport pallet 12 with winding pallet 14 thereon, and with a stator part 22 mounted in the winding pallet 14 are shown and described. The winding pallet and transport pallet are separable from each other for the purpose of facilitating movement of the winding pallet to a winding station in order to perform a winding operation on the stator part that is mounted on the winding pallet.

In the automated stator winding method, the transport pallet is separated from the winding pallet, the separated winding pallet is moved into a winding position, a winding operation is performed at the winding position, and after the winding operation the separated winding pallet is placed back onto the transport pallet. Each of the foregoing steps is performed by automated machinery. Referring to Fig. 4 and the description at page 5, line 13 thru page 6, line 24, in one embodiment the separation step is performed at an upstream location 74 along a conveyor 56, after which the separated winding pallet is moved to a winding position 84 of winding machine 52 where a winding operation takes place, after which the winding pallet is moved to a downstream location 96 along conveyor 56 where the winding pallet is placed back on the transport pallet so that the transport pallet/winding pallet combination can be moved further along the conveyor 56 to downstream manufacturing and/or testing stations.

Figs. 5-11 illustrate exemplary structures for carrying out various steps of the invention, as described at page 6, line 25 thru page 12, line 23.

ISSUES

The issue is:

(1) Whether claims 7, 9, 11-14, 45, 47, 49-59 and 61-62 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,373,623 to Santandrea et al. (“Santandrea ‘623”).

GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS

In connection with issue 1 presented above, and solely for the purpose of this appeal, claims 7, 9, 13 and 14 stand or fall together; claims 11-12 stand or fall together; claims 45, 47, 51, 54-56, 59 and 61 stand or fall together; claims 49 and 50 stand or fall together; claims 52-53 stand or fall together; claims 57 and 58 stand or fall together; and claim 62 stands or falls alone.

ARGUMENT

Appellant submits that the rejection of claims 7, 9, 11-14, 45, 47, 49-59 and 61-62 under 35 U.S.C §103 is without merit and that the present invention is clearly distinguishable over the cited references, as set forth in detail below.

I. THE EXAMINER’S REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7, 9, 11-14, 45, 47, 49-59 and 61-62 IS IMPROPER BECAUSE THE CLAIMS ARE NOT OBVIOUS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 BASED UPON SANTANDREA ‘623.

Appellant submits that the obviousness rejection is clearly improper because Santandrea et al. fails to teach or suggest the method as defined by the rejected claims as set forth in detail below for the claims as grouped above.

A. Claims 45, 47, 51, 54-56, 59 and 61

Claim 56 is arguably the broadest claim and is directed to an automated stator winding method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
- (b) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
- (c) moving the separated winding pallet into a winding position;
- (d) performing a winding operation at the winding position;

(e) after step (d), placing the separated winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;
wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d) and (e) are performed by automated machinery.

As explained in prior responses, Santandrea '623 is directed to a standard pallet in combination with a workpiece holder that is adapted to fixture at least two different types of stators. The workpiece holder includes body part 9 for holding a first stator type and body part 10 for holding a second stator type. If the workpiece holder is going to fixture a first stator type it engages on the pallet in one orientation (body part 9 facing up and body part 10 facing down), and if the workpiece holder is going to fixture a second stator type the workpiece holder is flipped so as to engage the pallet in an opposite orientation (body part 10 facing up and body part 9 facing down, see Santandrea '623 at col. 2, lines 44-62). A mechanism for removing the workpiece holder from the pallet, flipping it, and returning it to the pallet is provided (see primarily Figs. 3 and 4). However, such a flipping operation would certainly not take place while a stator part is fixtured in the workpiece holder, but only when the device needs to be reconfigured to accept a different stator type. Moreover, a thorough review of Santandrea '623 demonstrates that there is no teaching or suggestion for performing a winding operation on a stator fixtured in the workpiece holder by removing the workpiece holder from the pallet 1, performing the winding operation on the stator in the workpiece holder and then returning the workpiece holder to the pallet. The purpose of removing the workpiece holder from the pallet as taught in Santandrea '623 is to reorient the workpiece holder to receive a different stator type.

Although Appellant believes that the configuration of the workpiece holder in Santandrea '623 in combination with the limits of current winding technology would likely prevent winding of a stator while positioned in the workpiece holder due the inability to access the stator from the underside, Appellant is not relying upon any structural distinction between the Santandrea '623 workpiece holder and the claimed winding pallet to establish patentability. Instead, and assuming *arguendo* only that the Santandrea '623 workpiece holder could be considered to be the claimed winding pallet, Santandrea '623 still fails to teach the method of claim 56 as clearly delineated by the chart below:

Application Claim 56	Santandrea et al.
An automated stator winding method comprising:	
(a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;	Santandrea et al. provides a transport pallet 1 with a workpiece holder 9, 10 that fixtures a stator.
(b) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;	Santandrea et al. teaches that the workpiece holder 9, 10 can be separated from the transport pallet 1, but only in the context of flipping the workpiece holder 9, 10 so that it can be used to fixture a different size stator. Santandrea et al. does not teach to separate the workpiece holder from the transport pallet, to then to move the separated workpiece holder into a winding position and perform a winding operation, and then place the separated workpiece holder back on the transport pallet after the winding operation.
(c) moving the separated winding pallet into a winding position;	
(d) performing a winding operation at the winding position;	
(e) after step (d), placing the separated winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;	
wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d) and (e) are performed by automated machinery.	

Moreover, at col. 4, lines 3-28, referencing Fig. 6, Santandrea '623 clearly teaches that a workpiece such as a stator is positioned on the workpiece holder on the pallet at position 1d and that manufacturing steps are performed "on the workpiece on the pallet" at each of positions 1f and 1g. Accordingly, to the extent that any "manufacturing step" of Santandrea '623 could be construed to suggest a winding operation, Santandrea '623 expressly teaches that the winding would occur while the workpiece is still on the pallet 1. This teaching is in direct contradiction to the method of claim 56, which requires that winding take place after the winding pallet and the transport pallet have been separated. Simply put, Santandrea '623 provides no teaching or suggestion to separate its workpiece holder and associated stator from the pallet 1, then move the workpiece holder to a winding position, perform a winding operation and finally place the workpiece holder back on the pallet 1 after winding.

For the above reasons, the teachings of Santandrea et al. fail to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the method of claim 56. Steps (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of claim 45 are analogous to steps (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of claim 56. Accordingly, claim 45, along with

dependent claims 47, 51, 54-55, 59 and 61 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Appellant therefore submits that the Board should reverse the rejection of claims 47, 51, 54-56, 59 and 61 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Santandrea '623.

B. Claims 49 and 50

Claim 49 depends from claim 45 and requires that "a winding machine is alongside a conveyor and step (d) includes pivoting the winding pallet toward the winding machine." In claim 45 step (d) is the step of "moving the winding pallet into a winding position." Appellant submits that there exist numerous ways to move a winding pallet into a winding position and therefore the specific manner recited in claim 49 makes claim 49 patentable over claim 45. As to Santandrea '623, the reference clearly falls short of teaching to pivot its workpiec holder into a winding position. Accordingly, dependent claim 49 is patentable over Santandrea '623 for this additional reason, and claim 50, which depends from 49, is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Appellant therefore submits that the Board should reverse the rejection of claims 49 and 50 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Santandrea '623.

C. Claims 52 and 53

Claim 52 depends from claim 45 and requires that "after step (c) and prior to step (e) a position of the stator part with respect to the winding pallet is adjusted to move the stator part to a winding reference position." Step (c) of claim 45 is the separating step and step (e) of claim 45 is the winding step. Appellant submits that it is not necessarily obvious to adjust the position of a stator on a winding pallet in order to prepare for a winding operation, making claim 52 patentable over claim 45. As to Santandrea '623, Appellant has found no teaching for such a step and the Examiner has not specifically identified how the reference teaches such a step. Accordingly, the rejection must fail. Claim 53 depends from claim 52 and is patentable for at least the same reason.

Appellant therefore submits that the Board should reverse the rejection of claims 52 and 53 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Santandrea '623.

D. Claims 57-58

Claim 57 depends from claim 56 and requires that “step (c) involves first moving the separated winding pallet to a position alongside the winding position and then moving the separated winding pallet laterally into the winding position.” Step (c) of claim 56 is the step of moving the separated winding pallet into a winding position. Appellant submits that it is not necessarily obvious to first move a winding pallet into a position alongside a winding position and then move the winding pallet into the winding position, as compared to the possibility of moving the separated winding pallet directly into the winding position, making claim 57 patentable over claim 56. As to Santandrea ‘623, Appellant again submits that there is a complete lack of any teaching or suggestion to move its workpiece holder in the manner recited in claim 57. Claim 58, which depends from claim 57, is patentable for at least the same reason.

Appellant therefore submits that the Board should reverse the rejection of claims 57 and 58 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Santandrea ‘623.

E. Claim 62

Claim 62 depends from claim 56 and requires that “step (b) takes place at a first location along a conveyor line and step (e) takes place at a second location along the conveyor line, the second location is downstream of the first location.” Step (b) is the separating step and step (e) is the step placing the winding pallet back onto the transport pallet. Appellant submits that claim 62 is patentable over claim 56 because it is not necessarily obvious that the two steps should be performed at different locations. As to Santandrea ‘623, Appellant again submits that there is a complete lack of any teaching or suggestion to have such separation and recombination performed at different locations along a conveyor. In fact, the Examiner’s allowance of claim 48 is reflective of this.

Appellant therefore submits that the Board should reverse the rejection of claims 62 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Santandrea ‘623.

F. Claims 7, 9, 13 and 14

Claim 7 is directed to an automated stator winding method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
 - (b) conveying the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon to an input side of a winding station;
 - (c) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
 - (d) pivoting the winding pallet into a first position alongside a winding position;
 - (e) laterally moving the winding pallet into the winding position;
 - (f) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
 - (g) laterally moving the winding pallet into a second position alongside the winding position;
 - (h) pivoting the winding pallet away from the second position and into a third position; and
 - (i) placing the winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;
- wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) are performed by automated machinery.

Claim 7 is more limited in scope than claim 56. For example, rather than the broad “moving” step (c) of claim 56, claim 7 delineates steps (d) and (e) which require a pivot and then a lateral movement to get the winding pallet into the winding position. Similarly, rather than the broad “placing” step (e) of claim 56, claim 7 delineates steps (g), (h) and (i) which require laterally moving, then pivoting and then placing. Accordingly, claim 7 is clearly patentable over claim 56.

As to Santandrea ‘623, claim 7 is patentable for at least the same reasons explained above for claim 56. In particular, Santandrea ‘623 clearly teaches that a workpiece such as a stator is positioned on the workpiece holder on the pallet at position 1d (Fig. 6) and that manufacturing steps are performed “on the workpiece on the pallet” at each of positions 1f and 1g. To the extent that any “manufacturing step” of Santandrea ‘623 could be construed to suggest a winding operation, Santandrea ‘623 therefore expressly teaches that the winding would occur while the workpiece is still on the pallet 1. This teaching is in direct contradiction to the method of claim 7, which requires that winding take place after the winding pallet has been separated from the transport pallet. Appellant further submits that Santandrea ‘623 does not teach a pivot operation in combination with a lateral movement in order to place its workpiece holder in a winding position, nor the reverse once winding is done. Accordingly, claim 7 is patentable over

Santandrea '623 for these additional reasons. Dependent claims 9, 13 and 14 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Appellant therefore submits that the Board should reverse the rejection of claims 7, 9, 13 and 14 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Santandrea '623.

G. Claims 11 and 12

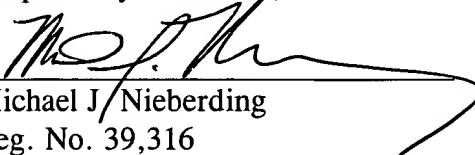
Claim 11 depends from claim 7 and requires that "after step (e) and prior to step (f) a position of the stator with respect to the winding pallet is set to a winding reference position." Step (e) of claim 45 is the lateral movement step and step (f) of claim 45 is the winding step. Appellant submits that it is not necessarily obvious to set the position of a stator on a winding pallet in order to prepare for a winding operation, making claim 11 patentable over claim 7. As to Santandrea '623, Appellant has found no teaching for such a step and the Examiner has not specifically identified how the reference teaches such a step. Accordingly, the rejection must fail. Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and is patentable for at least the same reason.

Appellant therefore submits that the Board should reverse the rejection of claims 11 and 12 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Santandrea '623.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing arguments, Appellant respectfully submits that the examiner has failed to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness of any of claims 7, 9, 11-14, 45, 47, 49-59 and 61-62. Accordingly, the Appellant respectfully requests the Honorable Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to reverse the examiner's rejections of claims 7, 9, 11-14, 45, 47, 49-59 and 61-62 and remand with directions to pass all pending claims to issue.

Respectfully submitted,


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Appendix to Appeal Brief – Claims On Appeal

7(Previously Presented). An automated stator winding method comprising:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
 - (b) conveying the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon to an input side of a winding station;
 - (c) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
 - (d) pivoting the winding pallet into a first position alongside a winding position;
 - (e) laterally moving the winding pallet into the winding position;
 - (f) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
 - (g) laterally moving the winding pallet into a second position alongside the winding position;
 - (h) pivoting the winding pallet away from the second position and into a third position; and
 - (i) placing the winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;
- wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) are performed by automated machinery.

9 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein step (c) involves lifting the winding pallet off the transport pallet while the transport pallet remains on a conveyor.

11 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein after step (e) and prior to step (f) a position of the stator with respect to the winding pallet is set to a winding reference position.

12 (Original). The method of claim 11 wherein step (i) includes setting a position of the stator with respect to the winding pallet to a second reference position different than the winding reference position.

13 (Original). The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of after the winding operation contacting stator coil wires connected to retaining studs on the winding pallet so as to move the wires inward on the winding pallet.

14 (Original). The method of claim 13 wherein the contacting step occurs after step (h) and before step (i).

45(Previously Presented). An automated stator winding method comprising:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
- (b) conveying the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon to a winding station;
- (c) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
- (d) moving the winding pallet into a winding position;
- (e) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
- (f) after step (e), placing the winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;

wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are performed by automated machinery.

47 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 45 wherein step (c) involves lifting the winding pallet off the transport pallet while the transport pallet remains on a conveyor.

49 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 45 wherein a winding machine is alongside a conveyor and step (d) includes pivoting the winding pallet toward the winding machine.

50 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 49 wherein step (d) includes moving the winding pallet into a pivot arm.

51 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 45 wherein step (f) takes place above a conveyor.

52 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 45 wherein after step (c) and prior to step (e) a position of the stator part with respect to the winding pallet is adjusted to move the stator part to a winding reference position.

53 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 52 wherein after step (e) a position of the stator part with respect to the winding pallet is adjusted to a second reference position different than the winding reference position.

54 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 45 wherein the winding operation places a number of stator coil wire ends on retaining studs of the winding pallet and the method further involves contacting the stator coil wire ends so as to move the wires inward on the winding pallet.

55 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 54 wherein the contacting step occurs after step (e) and before step (f).

56 (Previously Presented). An automated stator winding method comprising:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
- (b) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
- (c) moving the separated winding pallet into a winding position;
- (d) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
- (e) after step (d), placing the separated winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;

wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d) and (e) are performed by automated machinery.

57 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 56 wherein step (c) involves first moving the separated winding pallet to a position alongside the winding position and then moving the separated winding pallet laterally into the winding position.

58 (Previously Presented). The method of 57 wherein the separated winding pallet is pivoted into the position alongside the winding position.

59 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 57 wherein a position of the stator part with respect to the winding pallet is adjusted at the position alongside the winding position to move the stator part to a winding reference position.

61 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 56 wherein step (b) involves lifting the winding pallet off the transport pallet while the transport pallet remains on a conveyor.

62 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 56 wherein step (b) takes place at a first location along a conveyor line and step (e) takes place at a second location along the conveyor line, the second location is downstream of the first location.